

MONTANA

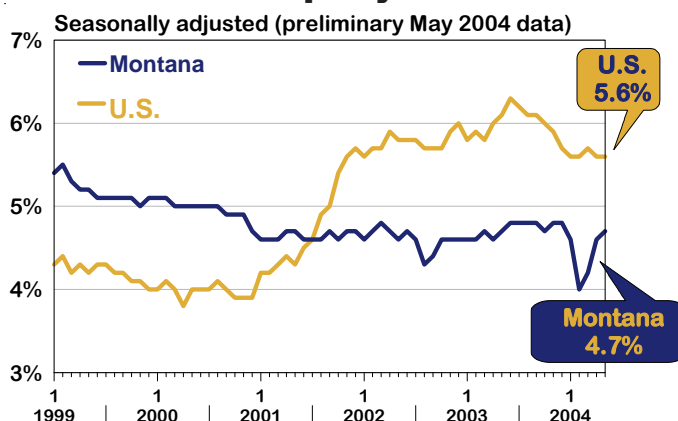
Economy at a Glance

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

In 2002, there were 463,000 Montanans in the experienced, civilian, noninstitutional population labor force (excludes persons with no previous work experience). What occupations employed all these Montanans? The table below shows the distribution of our labor force. The highest percent of Montanans are employed in the Service Occupations (16%), Professional Specialty (14%) and the Executive, Administrative and Managerial Occupations (13%). Find more information at: <http://stats.bls.gov/cps>

Occupation	Number Employed	% of Total
Service Occupations	75,000	16
Professional specialty	65,000	14
Executive, administrative and managerial	62,000	13
Precision production, craft, and repair	56,000	12
Administrative support, including clerical	55,000	12
Sales	50,000	11
Farming, forestry, and fishing	36,000	8
Transportation and material moving	20,000	4
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	17,000	4
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	14,000	3
Technicians and related support	13,000	3
Total	463,000	100

Unemployment

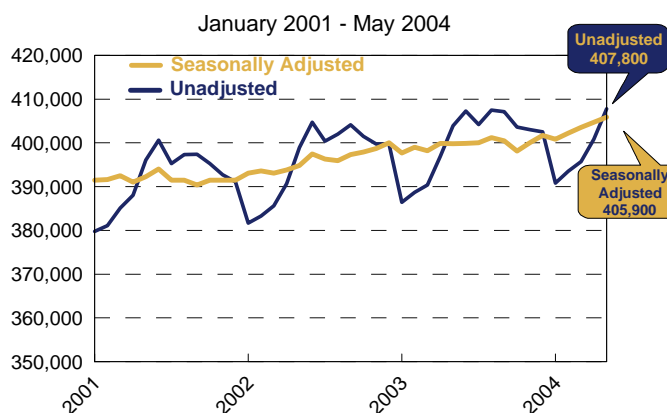


Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's May unemployment rate of 4.7 percent was nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers was \$425.04, up 2.6 percent over-the-year for May, and down half of a percentage point from the 3.1 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonfarm Employment Series



Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 6,100 jobs (1.5 percent) over the year for May. The largest over-the-year gains were in construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; and leisure and hospitality services.

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

	May 2004*	May 2003
UNITED STATES	5.3%	5.8%
MONTANA	4.2%	4.2%
Cascade **	4.0%	4.1%
Missoula **	3.4%	3.3%
Yellowstone **	3.3%	3.1%
Beaverhead	3.2%	3.8%
Big Horn	11.7%	14.6%
Blaine	4.0%	4.7%
Broadwater	3.7%	4.1%
Carbon	3.2%	3.2%
Carter	2.3%	1.5%
Chouteau	2.0%	1.9%
Custer	2.6%	2.2%
Daniels	1.3%	1.5%
Dawson	2.7%	1.8%
Deer Lodge	5.2%	4.7%
Fallon	2.1%	2.8%
Fergus	4.5%	3.9%
Flathead	6.0%	5.8%
Gallatin	3.0%	3.0%
Garfield	2.0%	2.7%
Glacier	12.6%	11.3%
Golden Valley	4.8%	4.8%
Granite	6.0%	8.3%
Hill	3.6%	3.7%
Jefferson	3.8%	4.0%
Judith Basin	2.9%	3.0%
Lake	5.9%	5.9%
Lewis & Clark	3.5%	3.5%
Liberty	2.4%	2.4%
Lincoln	13.6%	16.5%
McCone	0.8%	1.5%
Madison	3.3%	3.6%
Meagher	6.1%	5.1%
Mineral	6.8%	8.2%
Musselshell	5.3%	6.2%
Park	4.1%	4.1%
Petroleum	3.6%	3.2%
Phillips	3.6%	3.8%
Pondera	5.6%	4.3%
Powder River	2.6%	1.5%
Powell	5.1%	6.0%
Prairie	3.0%	1.6%
Ravalli	4.1%	4.2%
Richland	3.3%	4.9%
Roosevelt	7.1%	6.5%
Rosebud	4.5%	5.8%
Sanders	7.5%	7.2%
Sheridan	2.6%	3.0%
Silver Bow	4.4%	4.4%
Stillwater	2.7%	3.0%
Sweet Grass	2.2%	2.2%
Teton	2.8%	2.6%
Toole	1.7%	2.6%
Treasure	3.4%	2.4%
Valley	3.0%	3.0%
Wheatland	2.9%	3.5%
Wibaux	2.3%	2.8%

*May 2004 rate preliminary
** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

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Retention Rates for Montana's Apprentice Programs

Since 1997, more than 1,100 people have participated in and graduated from apprentice programs in Montana. This program was established by the legislature in 1941. The Montana Department of Labor and Industry has been designated the registration agency, and it oversees the various organized (i.e., union) and independent employer-driven programs in the state. The participating businesses range from small shops to some of Montana's largest manufacturing concerns.

Participants in the program have come from 53 of 56 Montana counties; 13% are female, 8% are minorities, and 15% are veterans or military attached.

The largest numbers of graduates have been either electricians or plumbers, but a number of other occupations are also represented.

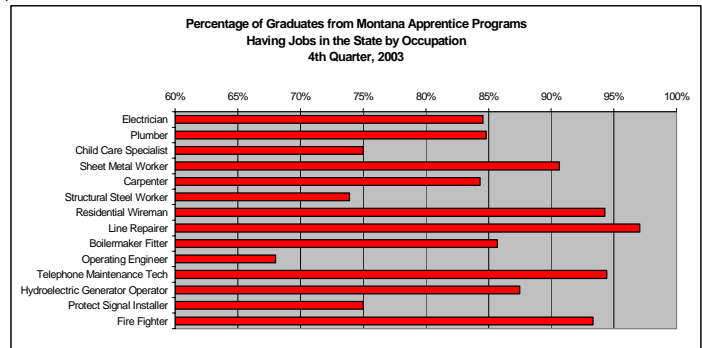
In fact, a total of 53 different craft and skills professions have been represented.

Around 85% of the graduates of these programs work for businesses in Montana. The chart below shows the percentage of different occupations with program graduates who received wages from at least one Montana business in the period between October and December 2003. The statistics are commonly called retention rates.

For more information about the Apprenticeship Program in Montana contact Mark Maki, Apprenticeship & Training Unit Program Supervisor, at 444-3556.

Got Questions?

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